Mr. PETERS

Last Report of the ENGLISH WARS,

Occasioned by the importunity of a Friend Pressing an *Answer* to Seven *Quares*.

Viz.

I. *Why he was silent at the Surrender of* Oxford.
II. *What he observed at* Worcester, *it being the last Towne in the Kings hand.*
III. *What were best to doe with the Army.*
IV. *If he had any expedient for the present difference.*
V. *What his Thoughts were in relation to Forreigne States.*
VI. *How these late Mercies and Conquests might be preserved and improved.*
VII. *Why his name appeares in so many Bookes not without blots, and he never wipe them off.*

Hugh Peters

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Mr. Peters Last Report of the *English* Warres.

SIR,

YOur importunity hath prevailed, and I could wish my *Answers* to your *Quæres* might gaine this with you that they are rather sent to please you then my selfe, whose knowledge lies rather in the Hyssop on the wall then the *Cedars* of *Lebanon*: I assure you I would now goe home and know my self, and study it throughly, *Nam miser ille qui nimis omnibus ignotus moritur sibi.*

First, In that you heard not from me upon the surrender of *Oxford*, I heare so much of it on both eares, and the distance was so little from *London*, that I forbore to report that to you, which you might have beene an eye-witnesse of at so little charge and trouble: onely let me be your true informer, that you had nothing committed then by ours, that had not its rise from integrity and faithfulnesse to the State, accompanied with such skill, as the Lord was pleased to dispence; and let me tell you, men upon the place (in such case) can better judge, then lookers on afarre off, I hope you will not lose by that bar-

gaine in the end, though it seeme for present an ill penniworth.

Secondly, For *Worcester*, I am sorry so little is spoken of it, where so much worth and gallantry appeared, and indeed I cannot remember where I have seene so much done in so short a time; where, when that valiant Commander of Horse Colonell *Whaley* had done his duty, and with the helpe of Countrey forces had blockt up part of the Towne; foure Regiments of foote under the command of Colonell *Rainborow* came, and raised works within Pistoll shot of their royall Sconce and the City, the Enemy playing upon them with Case-shot out of Sakers all the time, wherein Lieutenant Colonell *Pride*, and Lieut. Colonell *Ewers* had a chiefe share; whereupon the Enemy accepts of those Propositions you have seene: Master *Richard Salwey* a Member of the House who was of our Councell in this Worke deserves well of his Countrey and the Kingdome for his wisedome and faithfulnesse many wayes: and truely I wish Colonell *Rainborow* a suitable imployment by Sea or Land, for both which God hath especially fitted him, foraine States would be proud of such a Servant: I Preached at *Worcester* at our comming in, and afterwards, and did observe a doore open to the Gospell.

I am now fully satisfied with the Answer of my many many Petitions that I might live to see this day, this blessed day, and the last towne of the Enemies taken: I am thinking whether to goe a few dayes more in this Vale to admire what I have seene upon Earth,

Earth, and then dye, that I may praiſe him as he would be praiſed, who hath founded mercies for his ſervants, and brought forth deliverance to miracle through Jeſus Chriſt. I finde our Souldiers generally in the old forme, rather wondring then boaſting, admired by the Enemy for their gallantry and Conduct.

Thirdly, Your demand about the diſpoſing the Army, is not ſo proper for a private Pen to ingage in; yet this I may ſay, that other Nations in our condition would thinke, it they lookt round about them and within them, the disbanding an Army (if truſty) ought not to be a worke of haſt: when the ſeas are down in *England*, I thinke the paſſage unto *Ireland* will be eaſier, and if we can maintaine a defenſive warre this Winter, I truſt the Spring will invite many over thither: onely I wiſh the *Engliſh* a good Magazine of all things, and that they would attend two things in the *Iriſh* warre beſides, *viz.* not to ſpend time about Caſtles and Forts, but to become Maſter of the Field: and ſecondly, to burne up the Enemies proviſions every where. The wild *Iriſh* and the *Indian* doe not much differ, and therefore would be handled alike: yet I could tell you a more excellent way; In the meane, if theſe faithfull Commanders were in Garriſons (without any deſigne be it ſpoken) you have alwayes an Army ready, the private ſouldier will ſtill run to his honeſt and well-known Commander; yea, ſo firme they are, that if their Officer ſhould be changed, I beleeve thoſe ſouldiers muſt be preſt to ſtay with others.

Briefely, this I say to your Question, that this Army was hardly gotten, and I wish it may be as hardly disbanded; if you have no present imployment, were I perswaded that forein threatnings were in earnest, I wish this Army might be sent to encounter them, and teach Peasants to understand liberty, and I would not doubt but to see good fruit of it soone, I would rather our men should live upon their wine, then they upon our Beere: It is one of the great interests of this State to keepe warre at distance: Feare not that Army whose Commanders (like *Samuel*) can aske any County or Towne where they have been whose, Oxe or Asse they have taken? never fewer complaints, nor many men of such quality, whose designe is onely to obey their Masters: *viz.* The Parliament, the slighting the Army is their money, triumphant chariots would have broke our necks.

Fourthly, Whereas you desire some expedient to the difference: I assure you the question in hand: and the Lord walking in the clouds towards us, it is no wonder we walke in the darke among our selves. And truly it wonndes my soule, when I thinke *Ireland* would perish, and *England* continue her misery through the disagreement of ten or 20. learned men: but if you will pardon and pitty my folly, I will state the disease, and then we have half, won the cure. To omit the three common enemies that befoole learned and unlearned, noble and ignoble, Gentleman and Peasant, I meane the flesh, the world, and the devill. You shall find our; First and maine mischiefe lies,

lies in our spirits, which are now made so keene and thorny, that they cannot be touch'd but by a paire of iron gloves, could wee but conquer each others spirit, wee should soone befoole the divell, and his Instruments: to which end I could wish we that are Ministers might pray together, if that cannot be, let us speake together, eate and drinke together, because if I mistake not, estrangement hath boyled us up to jealousie and hatred.

2. Let us much studie, hold forth, and rejoyce in what we agree, as please our selves, and grieve others in what we differ, our animosities may content our selves, but wrong the Gospell.

3. Let us remember *England*, as it was never conquered but by faction, so it can never be ruled but by love; the same last will not fit an *English* and a *Scotish* foote, they come not suddenly to what they enjoy, and therefore should give *England* a little breathing over what is propounded, it will be their mercy to keepe what they have, and our to be growing up to what we desire.

4. An evill lies in this, that we unwillingly drive on our enemies designes: *Barnevelt* laid his project upon an *Arminian* bottome, and so made Religion a stalking horse to his Politick ends.

5. Let the present Church-government goe on, and walke softly and tenderly, let those that longed for it improve it, *& valeat quantum valere potest*: Let others that are godly know it may helpe, at least to hew stone, and square timber for a more glorious building, to bring from one extremitie to another, God useth his owne media onely, violence becometh

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not Saints: In Popish times the Clergie had not the coercive power, but subjected the civill magistrate to doe their worke; I wish the State keepe a good bolt upon that doore: I am confident the chiefe meanes to greater an error will be by violence and opposition, when slighted it dyes. Coales blowne get heat and strength, neglected grow cold. I wish every one might be severely punished that spoke against either Presbytery or Independencie till they could define that aright, and distinguisht about them and their wayes, them I believe we stole hvee *altum silentium*.

Lastly, men are not in their proper worke, which excentrick motions produce many things uncoucht: I need not particularize, but when I see the languishing perishing conditions of many Counties, thorough want of preaching I must be bold to say to wrangling is none of our proper worke; I think we might doe God more service in Studie and Pulpits, then in waiting at great mens doores, and working them up to their selvish interests. I could adde that we take *causam pro non causa*, we put our troubles upon schismaticks, and opinionists, and never attend the true cause: There may shortly be a great change in the *Nether-Lands*, but you shall finde the cause not in the harmelesse *Anabaptists*, whereof there are swarmes, but in some *Hispaniolized* Statesmen.

Fifthly, Your demand of my thoughts of *England* in order to forraigne States, I answer with a wish, *viz.* That forthwith we might have some choise agents sent out as two to *Sweden*, two to the

Cantons

Cantons our good friends, two to the *Netherlands*, and ſo to other parts as we ſee cauſe, and theſe accompanied with a Manifeſt of Gods gracious dealings with this State, letting them to know we omitted this worke in our miſery leſt our friends might feare us for beggers, but now being upon an even foot with them, we let them know our condition, and how ready we are to owne them againſt a common enemy: every man in this Nation pretending to ſouldiery upon good experience. This being done, and our Navey in its true *Engliſh* beauty, I would not doubt but others may be as glad to know an *Engliſh* man, as we deſire acquaintance with them. And if our back-doore were well ſhut at home, how might *Euphrates* be dried up; I meane the *Weſt Indies* and the *Eaſt* too offer themſelves to our devotion. Let us ſtill remember the ſupport of Trade is the ſtrength of this *Iſland*, diſcountenance the Merchant, and take beggery by the hand. This is the miſery of *England* whileſt others are beate into ſlavery, they are apt to be complemented into it.

Other Kingdomes and Countries are therefore terrible to us, becauſe we are ſo little terrible to them: Were we not more effeminate then our Predeceſſors in Queene *Elizabeths* time, I know not why three Kingdomes ſhould doe leſſe then one; you ſee we can fight if we muſt, I dare undertake if you can finde worke abroad, it will not be hard to finde men: nay it were eaſie to finde both, if we were agreed at home: What you heare of a conjunction between the Prince of *Wales* and his Lieutenant Generall the Duke of *Lorrayne* with ſome promiſes from his

Uncle *Bavaria* need not trouble you, the *Danes* and *Saxons* never mastered this *Island* by power, but by our home-bred distempers. To prevent those feares let *English* men keepe to their proper Interests, and *Scots* to theirs, and I know not why we might not march into *Bavaria* and *Lorrayne* before they come unto us, and make them pay all old Arreares. I must confesse I am divided between *Ireland* and the *Palatinate*, onely I quiet my selfe in this that we may doe both.

Sixthly, Touching the preserving and improving the Conquests and mercies: I onely commend unto you these few rules.

1. By the same meanes the mercy is gained it may be preserved, if men, yea good men were instrumentall in the one, they must be in the other; confide when you see reason to confide: thy friend and thy fathers friend put price upon, he that loves you and your Countrey may be trusted to conserve what is wonne: to which adde praying, and beleeving, for in all these God hath appeared: I would as soon credit a garrison to a knowne honest godly *English* man, differing from me in his opinion, as all *France* being most Catholicke trust it selfe to their Protestant Leaders.

2. Walke plainely in your Counsells, God needs no mans lyes to carry on his worke. Commonly these *Arcana Imperii* are *ruina populi*, let your yea be yea, and your nay nay. God preserveth the simple: Doe but observe the Historie of *Europe*, and you shall finde those admired deepe set counsells of men mingled

mingled with so much flesh, have proved but grasse.

3. If *England* be now a conquered Kingdome, we cannot have much to begge of a conquered enemy, and therefore I could wish all markes of slavery might be taken off, and since God hath invested us with our almost lost liberty, let it be our care that after ages may not say we conquered our selves into a new slavery.

4. Because not onely our selves, but also the wisest of our late enemies confesse the influence of the City is such, that we could not have wanted it, and therefore their highest designe now is to make it royall, you may remember how willing I was once to have made a match, my weakenesse was such that I did not study whether both parties were well agreed, and my simplicity kept me from thinking of a Corrivall, yet now I pray improve your Interests, and let *London* know that if they thinke a Parliament sits the quieter by being so neare them, so I thinke when the Parliament doores are shut up at *Westminster*, their shops will hardly stand open at *London*: If the clashing of swords cannot be heard, yet death clinching up their windowes by the increase of the plague calls for some thing.

5. Justice will exalt and maintaine a Nation, I wish they might be first sharers in it, that first adventured their estates and lives; had the Citizens remonstrated more about their debts due, and lesse about their wills, they might had more thankes, and (it may be) by this time some might have kept Orphanes from their doores, that crie for the mo-

ney lent to supply the States use, he that will ride a free horse to death, may in time be spurring a dull Jade to no purpose. And for distributive Justice, let it be impartiall. Two things may breake the Axle-tree of any State, *viz.* First, Opposition to knowne truthes; or slighting that Religion in the purity of it, which we owne in mixtures, and innocent bloud not wiped off by the hand of Justice. A State may stand upon any frame of Government, if fastened together with Justice, Charity, and Industry, the onely upholders of that flourishing Neighbour-Nation the *Netherlands*.

Lastly, Because *England* is devout, and Religion of one kind or another carries most prevalency, and that this Nation acts generally upon religious apprehensions, above any I know, therefore that which hath been our wound must be our cure (preaching and Preachers I meane) the Gentry must be base, and so the Parliament unsupplyed of good members; the common-people will worship any dunghill-god, the City is full of blacke iniquity, if preaching be neglected: how long therefore shall I intreat some three or foure Itinerary Ministers in a County? Evangelists went out before Churches were setled, how easily might the Land be (in some measure) reduced to God, and their owne civill Interests, if provision was laid in of this kinde? but you will object we have above nine thousand parishes, and not a thousand able men: I answer, you see the need of Itinerants, and secondly, Why may we not follow the practise of other Reformed Churches?

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and gather up godly youths out of ſhops, and ſend them for improvement ſomewhere, why not a Colledge of *Oxford* ſet apart to that uſe? and if men cannot anſwer the narrow examen of an Aſſembly, why might there not be a Committee to judge of ſome competency in ſome men for the preſent to ſend out, though they ſhould fall ſhort of Arts and Tongues? *John Alaſco* was a Baron, yet in *Edward* the ſixts time, you may ſee what Church worke he did: why not learned godly Gentry, Lawyers, that might be ſpared ſome of them, phyſicians, &c. imployed this way? teaching their tenants were a better Trade, then racking of Rents by ſome of our Gentry. How ripe have I found *Hereforaſhire* and *worceſterſhire* for the Goſpell, and many other Counties? Helpe Lord!

To the Queſtion concerning my ſelf; I anſwer, I am at preſent upon a good Study, ever how to want what the Lord is not willing to give: I am turning my cheeke to the ſmiter: I have been thinking to anſwer ſixe or ſeven Pamphlets that name me either enviouſly or diſgracefully, but yet remaine doubting. The Lord rebuke Satan. I ſee (with *Ieremy*) though I neither borrow nor lend, &c. yet this may be my portion. This I muſt ſay, if either in Doctrine or Practiſe I have failed, the time is not yet wherein any Brother in a way of God hath dealt with me: and if my different judgement offend any, my Anſwer is, that with much expence of money and time, with diligent inquiry into reformed Churches, I have taken paines to ſatisfie my ſelfe,

and remaine now where I was for ſubſtance fifteene yeares ſince, reſolving by that experience to keepe a window open to more light and truth, though ſcoft and ſlighted; my care hath beene to acquaint my ſelfe with the moſt learned and godly in the Countrey where I travell, firſt I lived about ſixe yeares neere that famous *Scotchman* Mr. *John Forbes*, with whom I travelled into *Germany*, & injoyed him in much love and ſweetnes conſtantly, from whom I never had but incouragement though we differed in the way of our Churches. Learned *Ameſius* breathed his laſt breath into my boſome, who left his profeſſorſhip in *Friezland* to live with me becauſe of my Churches Independency at *Rotterdam*, and charged me often, even to his death, ſo to look to it, and if there were a way of publik worſhip in the world, that God would owne it was that: he was my Colleague and choſen Brother to the Church where I was an unworthy Paſtor: and I thanke the Lord ſuch a Church it continues to this day; that truely I ſlightly tooke up nothing in that kind, nor did I loſe all my ſeven years being in *New England*, amongſt thoſe faithfull, learned, godly brethren, whoſe way of worſhip if wee profeſſe, it will not be groundleſſe when their Writings are examined. But to thoſe Printed Scribles againſt me I may provide ſhortly a more ſatisfactory Anſwer, where I may plainly charge home untrue and unworthy paſſages upon the Authors; though I know, *Et facere & pati fortia Chriſtianorum eſt.* Now the good Lord who hath led Captivity captive for us, ſubdue us to himſelfe, and

grant

grant that in these tossing, tumbling, foaming Seas we depart not from our Principles of Reason, Honour, Liberty, much lesse Religion; which is the Prayer of

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SIR,

Your Friend *sine fuco*,

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